

# Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services

618 Second Avenue, Suite 1020, Seattle, Washington 98104-2232 • (206)684-0660 • TTY (206)684-0274 • FAX (206)684-0689  
Creating choices for elders and adults with disabilities in Seattle-King County  
[www.advisorycouncil.org](http://www.advisorycouncil.org)

## DRAFT

### NOVEMBER 14, 2003 ANNUAL MEETING

#### ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Present** Cleo Corcoran, Martha Becker, Joanne Brekke, Gabe Cohen, Thelma Coney, John Holecek, Adam John, Timmie Faghin, Will Parry, Larry Low, Helen Spencer, Lisa Yeager, and Larry Verhei  
**Excused** Alexandra Tu, John Kennedy, Yolanda Sanchez-Lovato, and Suzanne Wiley  
**Absent** Steve Colwell, and Richard McIver  
**Guests** Kathleen O'Connor, Bernie Busch, Shelby Osborne, Midge Levy, and Vonne Worth  
**ADS Staff** Selina Chow, Rosemary Cunningham, Karen Winston, Linda Wells, Margaret Casey, and Ozell Bledsoe  
**United Way Staff** Linda Woodall

## MINUTES

**Cleo Corcoran**, Chair, convened the Advisory Council meeting at 12:00 p.m. Cleo asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves. Cleo introduced **Kathleen O'Connor, MA**, and Principal of O'Connor Health Care Communications. She has over 23 years experience in health care marketing, health strategy, communications, and public relations, both locally and nationally.

#### Program Topic: Health Care Financing

- **Kathleen O'Connor** provided information about *Code Blue Now*, “a broad based, non-partisan health care forum with large scale organizing networks. It is a vehicle to create a better future for health care in the U.S.” She also presented an overview of health care issues based on a power point presentation entitled “The Sinking Health Care Titanic”. She emphasized significant gaps in the current Health Care System including:
  - Recognition that health care is 14% of the US economy; over 41 million people are uninsured; and employers-public and private are seeing 12% to 50% increases in health care cost.
  - Differences in how countries (i.e. USA, Japan, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, and Great Britain) pay for health care.

---

In association with the Area Agency on Aging for Seattle-King County and sponsored by:



City of Seattle



King County

- The different ways people obtain health care coverage, for example:
  - a) Payers get coverage through commercial private insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, Worker's Compensation, Veterans Administration, DSHS and Basic Health Plans.
  - b) Providers and Payers may get coverage by hospitals, doctors, community health centers, Veterans Administration, US public health service, CHAMPUS, Indian Health Service and other providers.

Kathleen concluded by providing information about the origins of health insurance; what health care as employee benefit has spawned; health policy rates, regulations, and special interest and health care as an ideology.

## BUSINESS MEETING

### ▪ Approval of Minutes

**Action Taken:** It was moved/seconded and passed that the October 10, 2003 minutes be approved as submitted.

### ▪ Review of Draft Bylaws

It was agreed that the timeline to vote on Bylaws changes be extended to ensure all members have time to review and make suggestions for revisions.

### Committee and Task Force Reports:

#### ▪ Planning and Allocation

**Thelma Coney**

- **Thelma** reported there was no October meeting and the P&A Committee is still waiting to hear feedback from the State regarding the Area Plan.

#### ▪ Outreach and Advocacy Committee

**Gabe Cohen**

- **Gabe** reported the Outreach & Advocacy Committee heard a presentation from Carla Okigwe, *Executive Director of Housing Development Consortium*, promoting housing options for adults with disabilities and low incomes. She reported that housing options for adults with disabilities and low incomes are suffering because the legislature has cut \$1 million from the Housing Trust Fund. Gabe recommended the Advisory Council contact other State Advisory Councils to send a joint letter to Representatives Frank Chopp and Hans Dunshee urging their support to restore the \$1 million cut from the Housing Trust Fund.

**Action Taken:** It was moved/seconded and passed that this Advisory Council will contact other State Advisory Councils to send a joint letter to Representatives Frank Chopp and Hans Dunshee urging their support to restore the \$1 million cut from the Housing Trust Fund.

- **Larry Verhei** reported on House Bill 2281, legislation to change the language in Washington State laws to designate hearing aids as prosthetic devices so they will receive comparable health care insurance coverage as any other artificial limb. He recommended the Advisory Council write a letter to Self Help for Hard of Hearing supporting House Bill 2281.

**Action Taken:** It was moved/seconded and passed that the Advisory Council will write a letter to Self Help for Hard of Hearing supporting House Bill 2281 to designate hearing aids as prosthetic devices.

- **Health Care Task Force** **Martha Becker**
  - **Martha** reported the November HCTF meeting focused on education programs for older adults and prescription drugs. She reported that the focus of the December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be Diabetes.
- **Election of 2004 Officers** **Cleo Corcoran**
  - **Cleo** reported that John Kennedy has withdrawn his nomination for Advisory Council Chair. **Larry Verhei** read the Nomination Committees slate of Officers for 2004: **Timmie Faghin**, Chair; **Gabe Cohen**, Vice Chair; **Larry Low**, Secretary, and **Lisa Yeager**, Member At-Large. All have agreed to serve as 2004 Advisory Council Officers.

**Action Taken:** It was moved/seconded and passed the slate of 2004 Officers be accepted as presented.

- **Timmie Faghin** thanked members for their support and thanked John Kennedy for his service and work on the Advisory Council.
- **Director's Report** **Rosemary Cunningham**
  - **Rosemary** reported that Pam Piering was in Washington DC attending the N4A Board Meeting and wanted to pass on the following information:
    - a) That the passage of the Prescription Drug Bill is not looking good.
    - b) Pam wants to thank everyone for attending the October 23<sup>rd</sup> Advisory Council Conference, it was well received and had excellent feedback.
    - c) Thank Advisory Council members who accompanied her on visits with the legislators.
  - **Linda Wells** announced the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual National Aging in Place Resource Event would take place on Saturday, November 15, 2003 at Park Place and Esperanza Apartments in the New Holly Village.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

***Day/Date: Friday, December 10, 2003***

***Time: 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.***

***Place: 13th Floor Conference Room***

***Alaska Building, 618 Second Ave***

***Seattle, WA 98104***

**Will Parry, Vice-Chair /Approved**\_\_\_\_\_